

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 3, 6, 11-12, 25-26, 32-33, 37-38, and 40-41 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 4-5, 7, 13-16, 20, 27-30, 34-35, and 39 have been amended. Twenty-nine (29) claims are pending in the application: Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-10, 13-24, 27-31, 34-36, and 39.

Allowable subject matter

1. At the outset, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating claims 12, 26, 33, 34, 38 and 39 as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended the claims such that all of the pending independent claims include subject matter the Examiner has indicated as allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Drawings

2. Figures 1-6 stand objected to for not be labeled by a legend such as -Prior Art-.

Applicants have submitted herewith replacement drawings designating figures 1-6 with the legend -Prior Art- as requested by the Examiner. Thus, the objection is overcome.

35 U.S.C. § 103

3. Claims 1-11, 13-25, 26-32, 35-37, and 40-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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Amendments to the Drawings

Please amend figures 1-6 by adding the legend "Prior Art" to each of the figures.

Attachments: Six (6) Replacement sheets

While Applicants traverse these rejections, Applicants have placed the claims the Examiner indicated as "allowable subject matter" into condition for allowance in order to pursue the timely issuance of the allowable claims. Applicants may file a continuation application to later pursue any canceled claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit these rejections are overcome.

C O N C L U S I O N

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited. Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Thomas F. Lebens at (805) 781-2865 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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